

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for risk assessment and management, comprising the steps of:
 - (1) generating one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals from one or more blank master assessment templates;
 - (2) populating the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with discipline-specific questions;
 - (3) generating one or more site-specific assessment files from the one or more populated discipline-specific master assessment manuals; and
 - (4) performing an assessment of a site using the one or more site-specific assessment files.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (1) comprises the step of generating one or more computer file copies of the one or more blank master assessment templates.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more blank master assessment templates are generated by information technology (IT) professionals.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (1) comprises the step of generating one or more interactive assessment manuals directed to ongoing risk maintenance.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (1) comprises the step of generating one or more blank master audit manuals directed to taking a snapshot of an entity's condition.

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6. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (1) comprises the steps of:
 - (a) generating one or more interactive assessment manuals directed to ongoing risk maintenance; and
 - (b) generating one or more blank master audit manuals directed to taking a snapshot of an entity's condition.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein discipline-specific questions in step (2) comprise one or more of risk assessment and management questions, procedures, links, comments, and other information useful for risk assessment and management.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the population of said one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals are performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in a specific discipline, wherein the one or more chief consultants populate the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with questions that are structured to identify issues and assess compliance with statutes, rules, regulations, best practices, and other duties of care relevant to the specific discipline.
9. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with health and safety questions to generate a health and safety master assessment manual.
10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the population of said health and safety master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in the discipline of health and safety, said one or more chief consultants including environmental health consultants.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with food safety questions to generate a food safety master assessment manual.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the population of said food safety master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in food safety, said one or more chief consultants including environmental health consultants.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with occupational health questions to generate an occupational health master assessment manual.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the population of said occupational health master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in occupational health, said one or more chief consultants including medical officers.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with occupational hygiene questions to generate an occupational hygiene master assessment manual.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the population of said occupational hygiene master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in occupational hygiene, said one or more chief consultants including environmental scientists.

17. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with water safety questions to generate a water safety master assessment manual.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the population of said water safety master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in the discipline of water safety, said one or more chief consultants including environmental scientists.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with asbestos safety questions to generate an asbestos safety master assessment manual.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the population of said asbestos safety master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in the discipline of asbestos safety, said one or more chief consultants including environmental scientists.

21. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with resource conservation questions to generate a resource conservation master assessment manual.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the population of said resource conservation master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in the discipline of resource conservation, said one or more chief consultants including environmental scientists.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein said resource conservation questions comprise one or more of water conservation questions, electrical energy conservation questions, and natural gas conservation questions.

24. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with food preparation questions to generate a food preparation master assessment manual.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein the population of said food preparation master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in food preparation safety, said one or more chief consultants including environmental health consultants.

26. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one of the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with fire safety questions to generate a fire safety master assessment manual.

27. The method according to claim 26, wherein the population of said fire safety master assessment manual is performed by one or more chief consultants having expertise in fire safety, said one or more chief consultants including environmental health consultants.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one or more blank master interactive assessment manuals directed to ongoing risk assessment with discipline-specific questions, wherein the discipline-specific questions are tailored for interactive assessments.

29. The method of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of populating one or more blank master audit manuals directed to taking a snapshot of an

entity's condition with discipline-specific questions, wherein the discipline-specific questions are tailored for audit assessments.

30. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the step of selecting site-specific questions from the one or more populated discipline-specific master assessment manuals to generate one or more site-specific assessment files.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein said one or more site-specific assessment files are site-specific interactive assessment files comprising discipline-specific questions tailored for interactive assessment.

32. The method according to claim 30, wherein said one or more site-specific assessment files are site-specific audit assessment files comprising discipline-specific questions tailored for audit assessment.

33. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the step of selecting site-specific questions from the one or more populated discipline-specific master assessment manuals to generate one or more site-specific assessment files, wherein a site-specific assessment file includes questions from more than one populated discipline-specific master assessment manual.

34. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (4) comprises the step of performing an interactive assessment of a site using one or more site-specific interactive assessment files.

35. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (4) comprises the step of performing an audit assessment of a site using one or more site-specific audit assessment files.

36. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- (5) performing steps (1) and (2) on a central computer system;
- (6) performing step (3) on a remote computer system;
- (7) entering results from step (4) on the remote computer system; and
- (8) uploading the results from step (4) from the remote computer system to the central computer system.

37. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- (5) performing steps (1) through (3) on a central computer system;
- (6) entering results from step (4) on a remote computer system; and
- (7) uploading the results from step (4) from the remote computer system to the central computer system.

38. A method of assessing and managing risk for one or more clients, comprising the steps of:

- (1) generating for each of the one or more clients, one or more discipline-specific master risk assessment manuals from one or more blank master assessment templates;
- (2) populating the one or more discipline-specific master risk assessment manuals with discipline-specific questions;
- (3) generating one or more site-specific risk assessment files from the one or more populated discipline-specific master risk assessment manuals; and
- (4) performing initial risk assessments for each of the one or more clients using the one or more site-specific risk assessment files.

39. The method according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

- (5) generating one or more discipline-specific master interactive assessment manuals from one or more blank master assessment templates;

(6) populating the one or more discipline-specific master interactive assessment manuals with discipline-specific questions; and

(7) generating for each of the one or more clients, one or more site-specific assessment files from the one or more populated discipline-specific master interactive assessment manuals, wherein the questions selected are based, at least in part, on results from the initial risk assessment performed in step (4).

40. The method according to claim 39, further comprising the steps of:

(7) training the one or more clients on use and revision of the one or more site-specific assessment files; and

(8) performing follow-up risk assessment of the one or more clients.

41. The method according to claim 40, further comprising the step of periodically performing audits for each of the one or more clients.

42. A method for risk assessment and management, comprising the steps of:

(1) generating blank master interactive assessment and audit templates;

(2) generating a master interactive assessment manual from the blank master interactive assessment template; and

(3) generating a master audit manual from the blank master audit template;

wherein said master interactive assessment manual and said master audit manual are used as a guide for auditing and assessing businesses and other entities for one or more areas of risk management based on standards of care that arise from statutes, rules, and regulations promulgated by government and regulatory organizations.

43. The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

- (4) generating site-specific audit files from the master audit manual;
- (5) auditing a site using the site-specific audit files;
- (6) generating interactive site-specific assessment files from the master interactive assessment manual;
- (7) performing an initial audit of the site using the interactive site specific assessment files; and
- (8) generating a site-specific interactive manual from the initial audit and from the interactive site specific assessment files, wherein the site-specific interactive manual includes instructions for reducing risks identified during the initial audit, and wherein the site-specific interactive manual includes instructions to periodically perform one or more risk management functions.

44. The method of claim 43, further comprising the step of training a site client to perform in accordance with the site-specific interactive manual.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein said one or more areas of risk management include health and safety, food safety, water safety, asbestos safety, fire safety, occupational health, resource conservation, and occupational hygiene.

46. The method of claim 42, wherein the blank master interactive assessment template is generated by one or more information technology (IT) professionals.

47. The method of claim 42, wherein the master interactive assessment manual is populated with risk management questions, procedures, links, comments, and other information useful for risk assessment and management.

48. The method of claim 42, wherein the master interactive assessment manual is populated with discipline-specific risk management questions, wherein the disciplines for the discipline specific risk management questions include questions from one or more of health and safety discipline, food safety discipline,

occupational health discipline, occupational hygiene discipline, water safety discipline, asbestos safety discipline, resources conservation discipline, food preparation discipline, and fire safety discipline.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein one or more chief consultants having expertise in a specific discipline populates the master interactive assessment manual with discipline-specific risk management questions, wherein the discipline-specific risk management questions are structured to identify issues and to assess compliance with statutes, rules, regulations, best practices, and duties of care relevant to the specific discipline.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein one or more chief consultants include environmental scientists who have technical expertise in a discipline and medical officers who have medical expertise in a discipline.

51. The method of claim 42, wherein a site-specific assessment file for a single discipline is generated from the master interactive assessment manual.

52. The method of claim 42, wherein a site-specific assessment file for multiple disciplines is generated from the master interactive assessment manual.

53. A system for risk assessment and management, comprising:
a registration module for setting up client users and defining access authorization;
a blank template files module for creating blank templates to be used for different disciplines and different user clients;
one or more discipline-specific master template modules, wherein said one or more discipline-specific master template modules utilize said blank templates from said blank template files module, and wherein said one or more

discipline-specific master template modules generate the master templates for risk assessment and risk management that are relevant to a specific discipline;

one or more site specific modules having site specific files for performing audits and interactive risk management and monitoring for a particular site, wherein said site specific files are generated from said master templates from said one or more discipline-specific master template modules; and

one or more user interfaces to allow said client users to interact with said registration module, said blank template files module, said one or more discipline-specific master template modules, and said one or more site specific modules for providing audits and interactive risk assessments;

wherein the risk assessment and management system utilizes standards of care that arise from statutes, rules, and regulations promulgated by government and regulatory organizations.

54. The system of claim 53, wherein said one or more discipline-specific master template modules generate one or more discipline-specific master manuals from a blank template and populate said one or more discipline-specific master manuals with questions designed to assess risk for a specific discipline.

55. The system of claim 54, wherein questions within said one or more discipline-specific master manuals are divided into one or more sectors associated with one or more types of businesses or entities.

56. The system of claim 53, wherein site-specific databases are generated from said one or more discipline-specific master manuals when a new client is identified for risk assessment, wherein said site-specific databases include question sets associated with one or more disciplines.

57. The system of claim 56, wherein said site-specific databases include interactive risk assessment questions that prompt a client user to periodically answer questions and periodically perform one or more tasks.

58. The system of claim 53, wherein said one or more user interfaces includes a network interface for a packet switched wide area network.

59. The system of claim 53, wherein said wide area network includes one or more of a private wide area network, a local area network, and a telecommunications network.

60. The system of claim 53, wherein said audits are snapshot measurements of risk at one point in time.

61. The system of claim 53, wherein said blank template module comprises a blank audit assessment template module and a blank interactive assessment template module.

62. The system of claim 61, wherein said blank audit assessment template module generates templates for use with an audit.

63. The system of claim 61, wherein said blank interactive assessment template module generates templates for use in an interactive risk management and monitoring system.

64. The system of claim 53, further comprising a reference files module, said reference files module comprising information relevant to using the system.

65. The system of claim 64, wherein said reference files module further comprises an interactive template forms module, a news feed module, and a legislation module.

66. The system of claim 65, wherein said interactive template forms module includes template forms that are specific to a particular site, wherein said template forms are saved locally by said client user.

67. The system of claim 65, wherein said news feed module provides a news service pertaining to risk management news, wherein news can be sorted, selected, and received by country, language, sector, discipline, clients, and products.

68. The system of claim 65, wherein said legislation module is a repository comprising legislation pertaining to regulations that may affect said client user.

69. The system of claim 53, wherein said registration module comprises a translation module that provides for the operation of said risk assessment and management system in other languages.

70. The system of claim 53, further comprising a report management system for enabling authorized viewers to access reports from a central location, wherein said reports include audit reports, supplier information reports, and industry standard reports.

71. The system of claim 70, wherein said report management system comprises a plurality of facilities, a plurality of assessment facilitators and a server/repository.

72. A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium including control logic stored therein, said control logic for enabling risk assessment and management, said control logic comprising:

first generating means for enabling a processor to generate one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals from one or more blank master assessment templates;

populating means for enabling a processor to populate the one or more discipline-specific master assessment manuals with discipline-specific questions;

second generating means for enabling a processor to generate one or more site-specific assessment files from the one or more populated discipline-specific master assessment manuals; and

performing means for enabling a processor to perform an assessment of a site using the one or more site-specific assessment files.